

Branch Chief for the Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning. After recognizing the enormous scope of Fairfax County's future transportation needs, Mr. Pant led the successful drive to establish an autonomous office of transportation for Fairfax County. Three years after transferring to Fairfax County, Shiva Pant, in 1977, became the first Director of the Fairfax County, Office of Transportation. A post he has faithfully held to this day.

As Director of the Office of Transportation, which now employs 60 staff full-time, Mr. Pant is head of the agency responsible for conducting and coordinating all aspects of highway and transit planning, implementation, operations and financing for all projects. Over the preceding two decades Mr. Pant was personally responsible for a number of key projects including the 35-mile Fairfax County Parkway, the Route 28 Transportation Tax District, he also designed a number of bond initiatives and lead the start-up of the County's own bus system which now operates over 120 buses.

Through out his career Shiva K. Pant has been an innovator and leader in the field of transportation for the State of Virginia and the County of Fairfax. After 28 years of service to the State and County, we will truly miss Mr. Pant's council and leadership. As much as we hate to lose his years of experience and personal expertise, I know he will be enormous value to both Virginia and WMATA in his new capacity as Government Relations Officer for Virginia.

REPEAL THE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I am today reintroducing my legislation to repeal the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the "motor-voter" bill.

The law, which took effect in most states on January 1, 1995, requires states to establish voter registration procedures for federal elections so that citizens may register to vote by mail, at state and local public assistance agencies and while applying for a driver's license. Motor voter provides no funding to the states to carry out any of these prescribed features.

The motor voter law was crafted to increase voter turnout by making the ballot more accessible. In one sense, it has achieved its goal. Motor voter has extended voting rights to non-citizens, dead people, children and even animals. On a more serious note, motor voter has fallen woefully short of its intended goal. While it is responsible for adding massive numbers of new voters to the rolls, voter turnout remains at dismally low levels. In 1996, voter participation dropped to 49.7%, one of the lowest rates in this century.

Motor voter has been a nightmare for many state election officials. Some have stated that motor voter has caused them to lose control over potential voter fraud. It ties their hands in removing "dead wood" from their rolls by re-

quiring them to keep registrants who fail to vote or who are unresponsive to voter registration correspondence to be maintained on voter rolls for years. Moreover, it fails to provide for citizenship verification. As troubling, the law has actually hindered citizens' voting rights. In the last election, in my home State of Arizona, voters who registered to vote while applying for a driver's license were turned away at the polls. Apparently, their applications were not properly forwarded to the election recorder. Mr. Speaker, this presents an interesting and poignant question: Why would we entrust our privileged right to vote to the wrong people?

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no need for this unyielding federal presence in voter registration. The states carry the responsibility for administering all elections and should be free to do so without unnecessary and heavy-handed federal intervention. Last Congress, we were unsuccessful in mitigating some of the more egregious provision of motor voter. Although I found this disappointing, I was encouraged by the heightened interest in reversing the law.

Mr. Speaker, the fraud perpetuated by motor voter will undoubtedly contribute to increasing voter apathy. I urge my colleagues to continue their fight to preserve the integrity of the vote by repealing motor voter. Voters must have assurances that a fraudulent ballot will not negate their precious vote. Please join me in repealing this ill-conceived federal mandate, which is a threat to our democracy.

THE NOTCH BABY HEALTH CARE RELIEF ACT INTRODUCTORY RE- MARKS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing legislation to assist the over 6 million senior citizens who have been negatively impacted by the Social Security Amendments of 1977. Seniors born between the years 1917 and 1921—the "Notch Babies"—have received lower Social Security monthly payments than those seniors born shortly before or after this five year period. My legislation, the Notch Baby Health Care Relief Act, will offset the reduction in Social Security benefits by providing a tax credit for Medicare Part B premiums.

The approach taken in this bill is different that taken in my Notch Baby Act of 1999 or in any other Notch bill that has been introduced in the previous Congress. This legislation is particularly noteworthy because it was suggested to me last year by one of my own constituents—adjust Medicare insurance payments for Notch Babies. Specifically, my new bill provides a refundable tax credit for monthly Medicare Part B premiums for senior citizens born between the years 1917 and 1921, their spouses and their widows or widowers. The bill also eliminates the Medicare Part B premium late enrollment penalty for these individuals.

As health care expenses can take up a large proportion of a senior's retirement in-

come, this tax credit can go a long way to both correct the inequity caused by the Notch and to help seniors meet their health care needs. I urge my colleagues to review the Notch Baby Health Care Relief Act, to discuss this legislation with the seniors in their districts, and to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

AMERICA'S BLESSINGS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would like to commend to his colleagues this November 26, 1998, Omaha World Herald editorial. This extension would have been submitted earlier but the House was not in session. Of course, the sentiments expressed in the editorial are certainly worth sharing at the beginning of the new year and the new Congress.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, November 11, 1998]

AMERICA'S BLESSINGS EXTEND BEYOND THE NATION'S SHORES

As Americans count their blessings on Thanksgiving Day, it would be appropriate if they looked at the freedoms and opportunities that have been handed down from the Founding Fathers. It would be fitting if they gave thanks for family, health and prosperity.

However, they might also look beyond the borders of the United States as they identify things for which to be thankful. In this ever-shrinking world, global developments have a sustained influence on life in America.

The world has enough food. Indeed, surpluses are a bigger problem than hunger in some places. Certainly international relief efforts still must compensate for an inadequate market system that fails to get food to some hungry people. But the hunger that exists is not because the world's farmers have failed to produce enough.

Man is using less water. For many years, the prospect of regional water shortages, harming agriculture and industry, led to concerns about possible water wars in the next century, as water-short nations attempted to take possession of a neighbor's water supply. Now, with improved irrigation techniques and widespread conservation methods, many countries are demonstrating that existing water supplies can be stretched much further.

Negotiated agreements have produced a shaky peace between the factions in Northern Ireland and between the Israelis and Palestinians on the West Bank, raising hopes for a permanent decline in hostilities. A cease-fire has held up in Bosnia. Diplomacy has kept tensions in check on the Korean Peninsula. India and Pakistan have backed away from a violent confrontation over nuclear weapons.

Researchers are learning more about AIDS, although the epidemic still rages out of control in much of the world. The fact that HIV-positive men and women are being kept alive longer raises hopes of additional progress toward a treatment or immunization that would be both effective and affordable.

Because of declining birth rates in a number of countries, demographers are backing